

# Keep Buffer On the Level

IT'S A GOOD DAY FOR SOME SHOOTING.

THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS!

DON'T GO INTO THE FIELD WITH A GRUMPY M119A1 HOWITZER. CHECK THE OHT LEVEL BEFORE OPERATION.

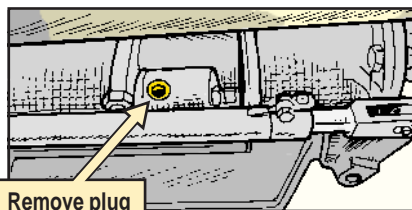
Operators, not making the before-operation check on the hydraulic fluid (OHT) level in your M119A1 howitzer's buffer assembly can be a costly mistake.

If the buffer is not full of OHT, condensation will create rust on the exposed portion of the buffer cylinder. Condensation will also contaminate the OHT. Water-contaminated OHT causes cylinder scoring and damage to the brass valve.

If you're lucky, the buffer assembly can be overhauled—for just \$20,000. If the assembly is too far gone for repairs, you'll be billed \$70,000 for a new one.

With prices like that, it pays to check the oil level often. Here's how:

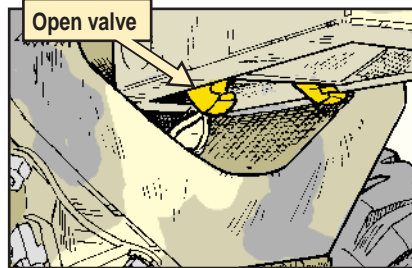
**1.** At 0 mils elevation, remove the plugs on the right-hand compensator tube and the blow-off check valve on the left-hand compensator tube.



Remove plug

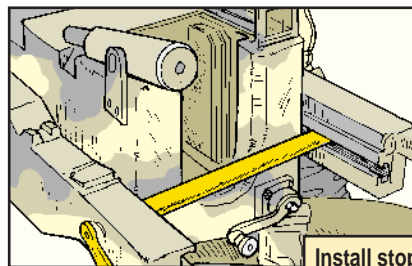
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**2.** Fully open the variable recoil adjustment valve by turning it counterclockwise as far as it will turn. Count and remember the number of clicks so you can return it to the same position when you're done.



Open valve

**3.** Install the run-back stop and elevate the howitzer to 180 mils.

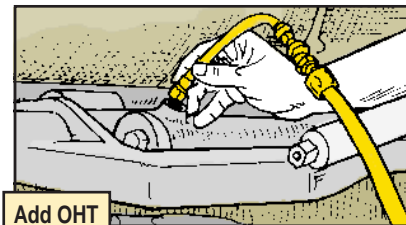


Install stop

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**4.** Add OHT through the blow-off check valve hole until clear oil flows from the plug hole on the right-hand compensator tube.

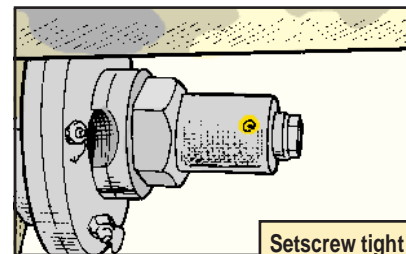


Add OHT

**5.** Reinstall the right-hand compensator tube plug and the blow-off check valve.

**6.** Elevate the cannon tube to maximum elevation.

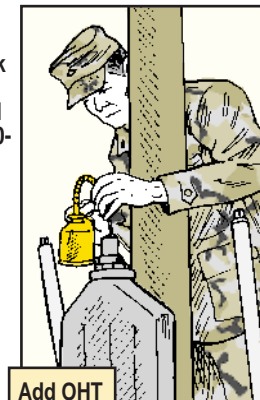
**7.** Make sure the buffer rod adapter nut setscrews are in place and tight. Trying to loosen the filler plug with a loose adapter nut lets the entire variable recoil mechanism turn. That loosens the collar and starts an OHT leak.



Setscrew tight?

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**8.** Remove the buffer rod plug and check the oil level. If necessary, add OHT, NSN 9150-00-935-9807, until the level reaches the bottom of the plug threads.



Add OHT

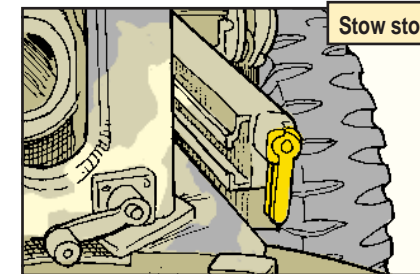
**9.** Hand tighten the buffer rod plug.

**10.** Depress and elevate the gun tube two or three times to purge air from the oil.

**11.** Repeat steps 6 and 8. If the oil level is correct, reinstall the buffer rod plug and depress the cannon tube to 0 mils.

**12.** Reset the variable recoil adjustment valve by turning it clockwise the same number of clicks as in step 2.

Remove and stow the run-back stop.



Stow stop

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